

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION SERIES

# AXX 5



Coloring: DAVE ROTOLONI

**THE EAGER**

by AVENELL  
& Romero

**THE CAREFREE**

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION SERIES

# AXA5

by Donne Avenell and Enrique Romero



• THE EAGER •  
• THE CAREFREE •

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION SERIES (TM)  
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## **AXA: From the Desk of Donne Avenell\***

In many ways AXA has been the most rewarding project I've ever worked on. The basic idea of the series, though it was Romero's and not mine, exactly fits with my preoccupations and ideas. It allows me to be really creative, and to express my own thoughts on the world and the way it's going.

Working with a fine artist like Romero has encouraged me to experiment with different techniques of strip writing (a demanding technical field, but full of fascinating potential): for instance, because Romero's art must be given full value, I've tried to economise as much as possible on dialogue, and therefore there has evolved (I hope) a dialogue style as terse and concentrated—but at the same time as informative on character, motive and atmosphere—as possible.

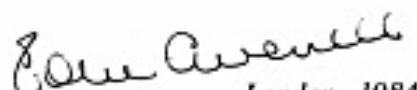
Romero did the first sketches of AXA and sent them to Barry Coker (our mutual agent) at the beginning of 1978. At that stage I was not involved. Barry showed me Romero's sketches (as I remember, they featured AXA trapped in a giant spider's web) with his brief notes on the character. He had already named her "AXA" and seen her as a traveller through a world devastated by nuclear disaster a hundred years before. No scenario or background detail had been developed at that stage. The concept intrigued me, and I wrote a synopsis establishing AXA's background (her upbringing in the Domed City, her rebellion and escape), a story line for the world she lived in, and started her on her wanderings. Romero was delighted with my ideas, which exactly matched his own basic concept of the series, so I produced the first detailed scripts. From these Romero drew the strips that began to appear in the *SUN* a few months later (summer of 1978).

My scripts detailed each individual frame for the strips, and gave my own idea of what the landscapes and characters looked like (essential if the dialogue is to be relevant). Romero, of course had—and has—the final say in the visualisation of the story, and it's understood between us that he can change anything he wants as long as the story line is preserved. In fact, over the five years of our working together, he has changed very little. Our ideas "gel" without any strain. But, I don't forget that Romero created AXA, that he is a master artist, and that my primary job is to liberate and inspire his unique artistic skill and imagination.

Romero and I are instinctively on the same wave length. We've never had any differences as to the general direction of the series, or the development of different episodes, or the detail of strips. We've even had the same basic ideas for new episodes, independently, at the same time. Generally I suggest the subject for new stories, but he will often tell me what he fancies drawing next (underwater scenes for example), and I'll build a story around that. I always try to remember that whatever I write must *inspire* him.

We meet once a year, usually in Barcelona where he lives. He doesn't speak English, and I don't speak Spanish, but Barry acts as our translator, and I think we are by now truly friends. We correspond frequently about current episodes or new projects. I think the best illustration of the rapport between us is an original drawing of AXA which he presented to me on a visit to Barcelona. It is signed: *To my unimprovable partner, DA.*

As to AXA's future, I hope it will run forever—or at least until its grim prediction of nuclear holocaust actually happens!

  
London, 1984

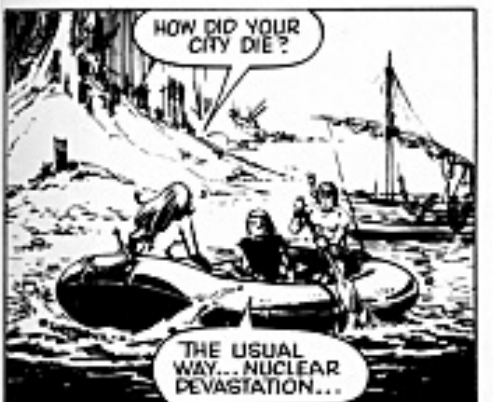
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\*This introduction came to be as the result of London's own John Dakin conducting an interview by correspondence with Donne Avenell. See the outside back cover of this volume for a picture of AXA's own Donne Avenell.













AXA AND DIRK HAVE FOUGHT OFF THE **TOAD CREATURES**...















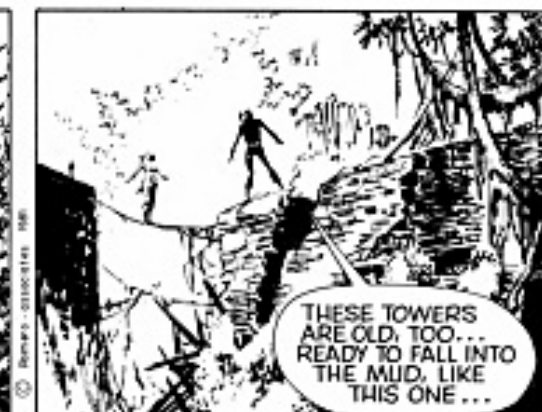
































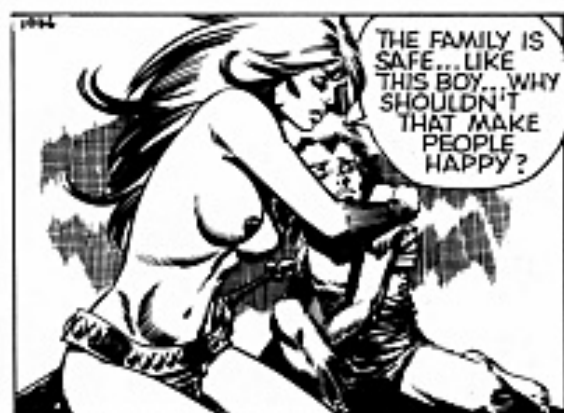


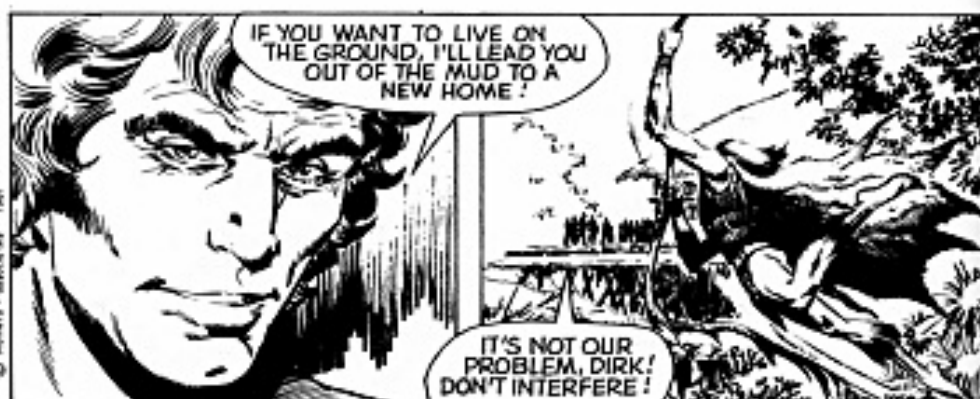












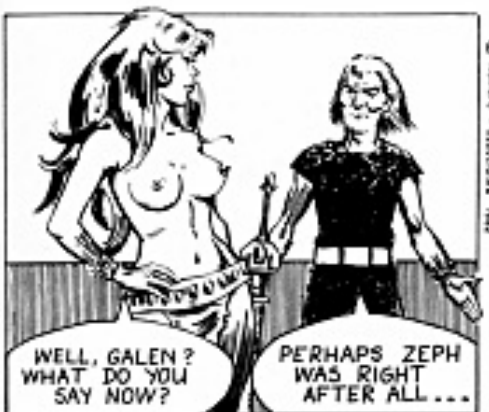








HE'S FALLING!  
LIKE A STONE!





















AXA STARES IN WONDER AT THE LANDSCAPE BEYOND THE HILLS...

A MIRAGE? OR REALITY?

WHAT CAN YOU SEE, AXA?

A LAND I THOUGHT ONLY EXISTED IN THE SKY PEOPLE'S DREAMS!

THE EARTH AS IT MUST HAVE LOOKED A CENTURY BEFORE THE GREAT CONTAMINATION... PASTORAL, FERTILE, UNSPOILT...

AXA AND THE HANDFUL OF SKY PEOPLE HAVE REACHED A LAND UNTOUCHED BY TROUBLE... OR TIME...

NO... JUST A VISION OUT OF THE PAST...

IT'S NO DREAM, AXA!

... BEFORE THE GREAT CONTAMINATION DEVASTATED AND POLLUTED THE GOOD EARTH





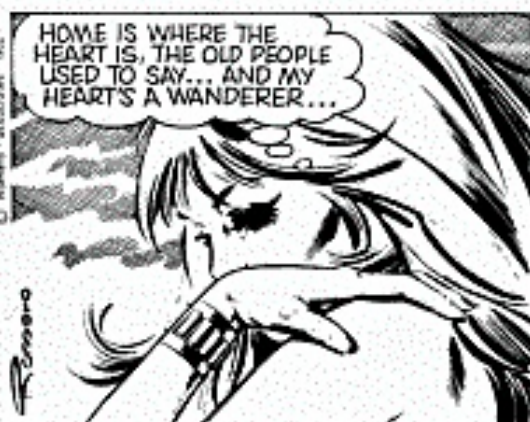




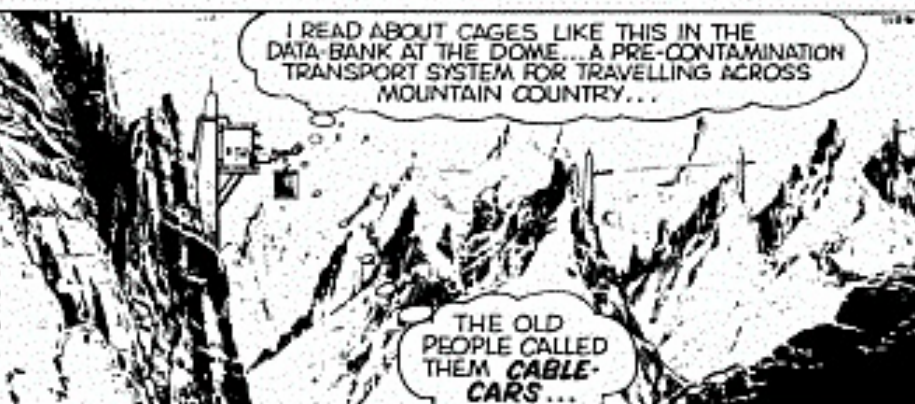
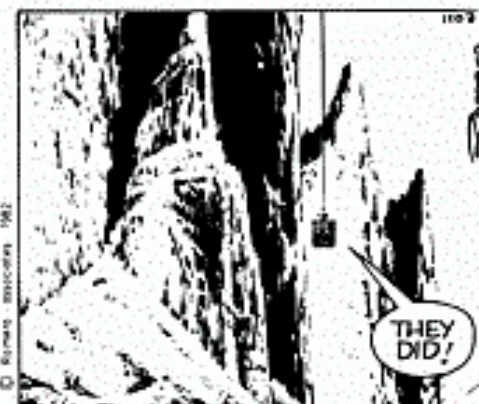




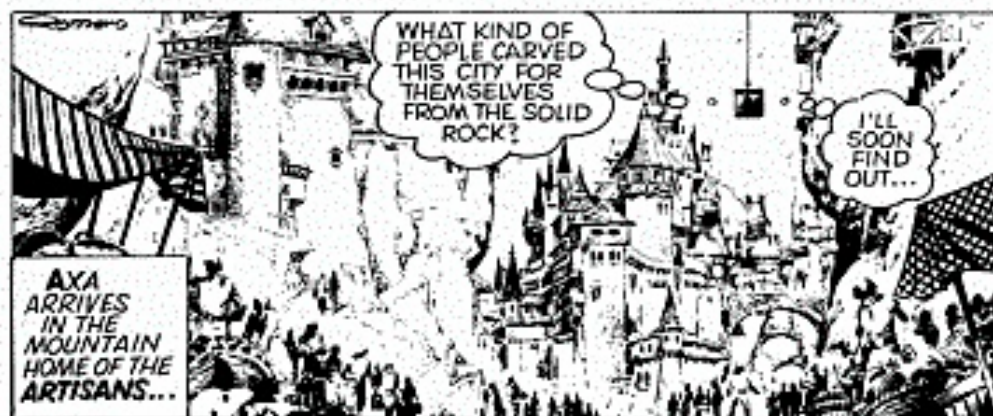
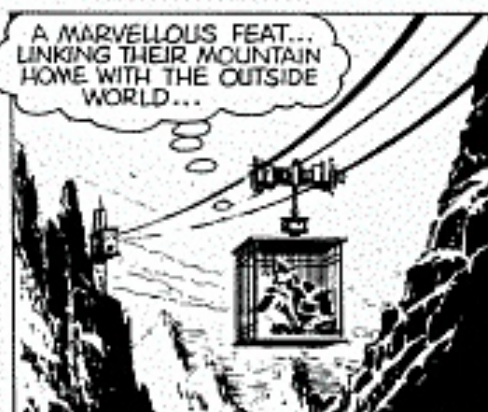
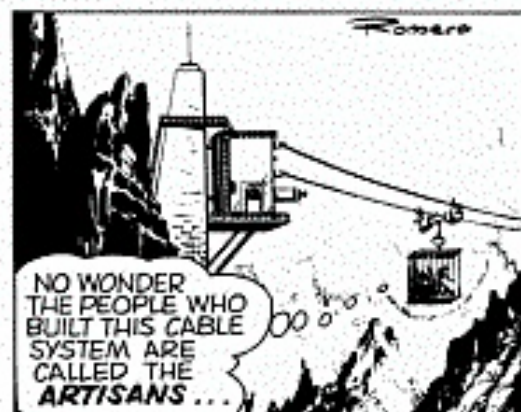
































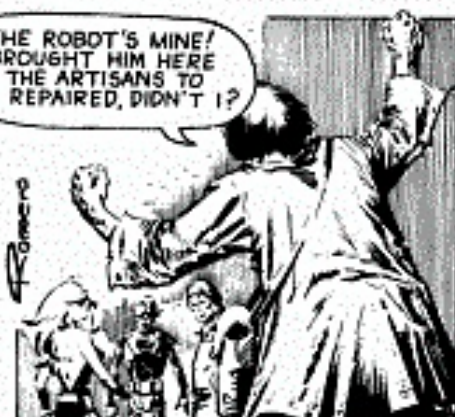
















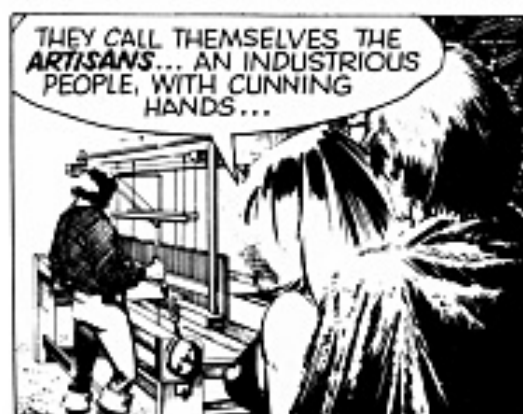




















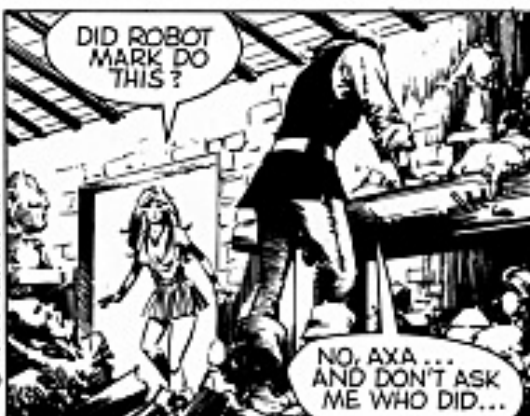




GALEN!



















I'VE FOUND LOVE HERE, TOO... WITH JORGE...



















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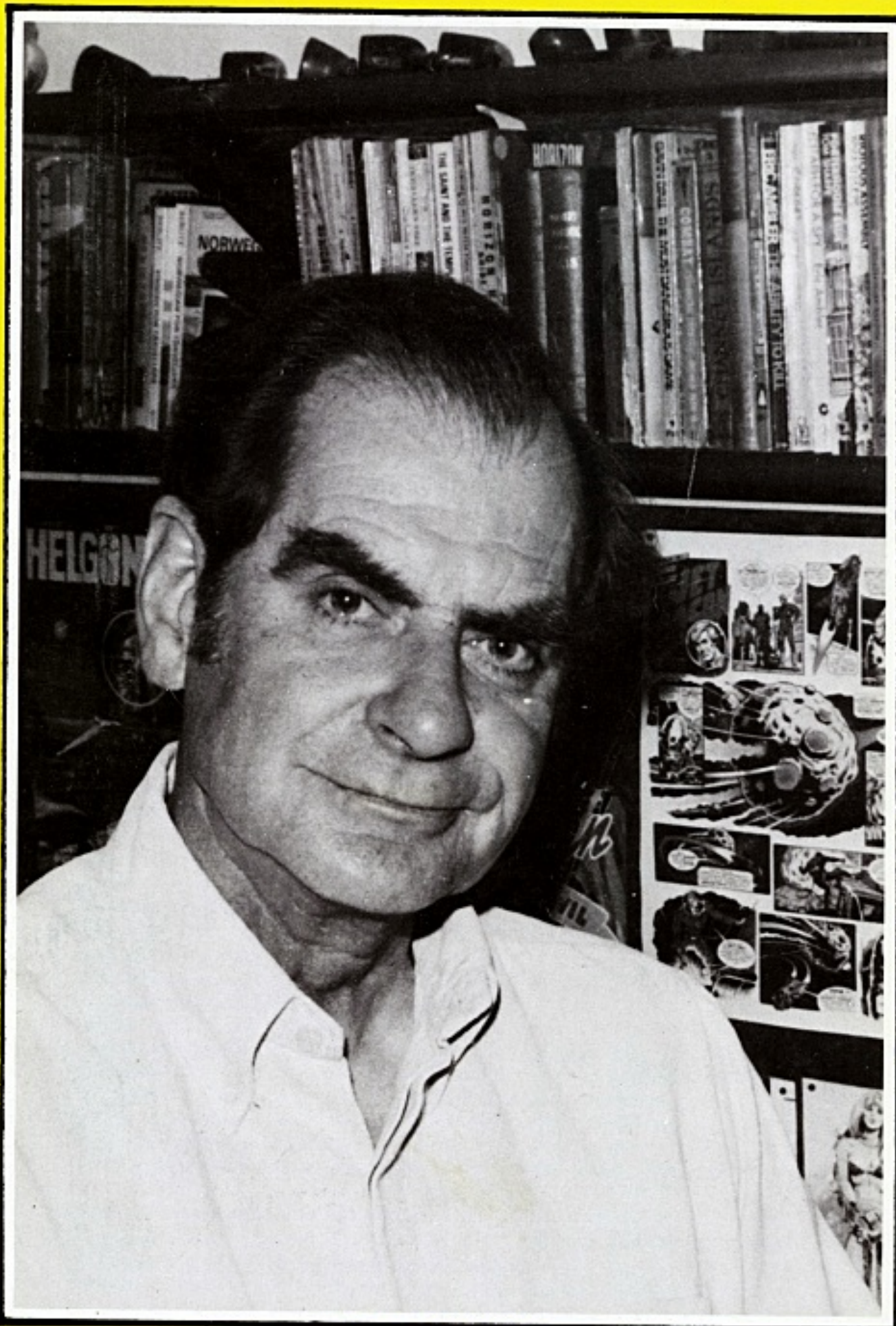
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